

Introduced by Senator BowenFebruary 22, 2002

An act to amend Section 882 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1863, as introduced, Bowen. Telecommunications services.

Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission to open a proceeding, or as part of existing proceedings, to consider ways to ensure that advanced telecommunications services are made available as ubiquitously and economically as possible to California's citizens, institutions, and businesses. Existing law requires the commission, in the proceeding or proceedings, to develop rules, procedures, orders, or strategies that seek to provide the state's educational and health care institutions with access to advanced communications services.

This bill would also require the commission to develop rules, procedures, orders, or strategies that seek to provide the state's nonprofit community technology centers with access to advanced communications services.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 882 of the Public Utilities Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 882. (a) The Public Utilities Commission shall, as soon as
- 4 practicable, open a proceeding or proceedings to, or as part of
- 5 existing proceedings shall, consider ways to ensure that advanced



1 telecommunications services are made available as ubiquitously
2 and economically as possible, in a timely fashion, to California's
3 citizens, institutions, and businesses. The proceeding or
4 proceedings should be completed within one year of
5 commencement.

6 (b) The proceeding or proceedings shall develop rules,
7 procedures, orders, or strategies, or all of these, that seek to
8 achieve the following goals:

9 (1) To provide all citizens and businesses with access to the
10 widest possible array of advanced communications services.

11 (2) To provide the state's educational ~~and~~ *institutions*, health
12 care institutions, *and nonprofit community technology centers*
13 with access to advanced communications services.

14 (3) To ensure cost-effective deployment of technology so as to
15 protect ratepayers' interests and the affordability of
16 telecommunications services.

17 (c) In the proceeding or proceedings, the commission should
18 also consider, but need not limit its consideration to, all of the
19 following:

20 (1) Whether the definition of universal service should be
21 broadened.

22 (2) How to encourage the timely and economic development of
23 an advanced public communications infrastructure, which may
24 include a variety of competitive providers.

